

## **The War of 1812 8-4 notes**

### **The Big Idea**

Great Britain and the United States went to battle in the War of 1812.

### **Main Ideas**

- American forces held their own against the British in the early battles of the war.
- U.S. forces stopped the British offensives in the East and South.
- The effects of the war included prosperity and national pride.

**Main Idea 1: American forces held their own against the British in the early battles of the war.**

### **War at Sea**

- Britain had hundreds of ships, but most were scattered around the globe.
- Americans had less than 20 ships, but had well-trained sailors and new warships like the powerful *USS Constitution*.
- American ships victorious in one-on-one battles.
- British blockaded seaports. Kept us from getting aid and supplies.

### **Along Canadian Border**

- American leaders wanted to invade Canada.
- Attacks in 1812 failed.
- **Oliver Hazard Perry** won naval **Battle of Lake Erie** in 1813.
- American control of Lake Erie established.
- British driven out of Northwest in 1813.

### **The Creek War**

=War erupted in the South with Native Americans, who were angry at settlers pushing into their lands.

=Creeks attacked Fort Mims in Alabama, killing about 250 defenders.

=**Andrew Jackson**, leading 2,000 volunteers, defeated the Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama in 1814.

=The **Treaty of Fort Jackson** ended war in 1814 and forced the Creeks to give up millions of acres of land.

**Main Idea 2: U.S. forces stopped British offensives in the East and South.**

### **British Attacks in East**

- British attacked Washington, D.C., in 1814.
- Set fire to White House, Capitol, and other buildings
- British shelled Fort McHenry at Baltimore, Maryland.
- Americans refused to surrender, and British retreated.

### **Battle of New Orleans**

- British moved against New Orleans.
  - Hoped to capture city and control Mississippi River
- Andrew Jackson commanded U.S. forces at New Orleans.
  - Troops included regular soldiers, free African Americans, Choctaws, state militia, and pirates.
- Battle began on January 8, 1815, with 5,300 British troops against about 4,500 Americans.
- British caught in open field; more than 2,000 British casualties.

- American victory at **Battle of New Orleans** made **Jackson** a hero and was last major conflict of the war.
- Battle unnecessary because the Treaty of Ghent was already signed. What would have kept them from knowing this?

**Main Idea 3: The effects of the war included prosperity and national pride.**

### **Hartford Convention**

- Group of New England Federalists agreed at the **Hartford Convention** to oppose war, but the war ended before the delegates met with Congress.
- War's end made party lose power.

### **Treaty of Ghent**

- **Treaty of Ghent** ended the War of 1812.
- Each nation returned conquered territory.

### **Consequences**

- Feelings of patriotism among Americans
- Power of many Native American groups broken
- Lack of goods during blockade boosted American manufacturing.

### **Other facts**

Our National Anthem was written during the Battle of Ft. McHenry by lawyer Francis Scott Key.

The Brits burned down the President's home, the capital building and the congressional library in DC in retaliation for our troops burning the Parliament building in York, Canada. While they burned DC, a tornado AND a hurricane hit and killed and wounded more British soldiers than we did in that battle.

Andrew Jackson HATED the British. They caused the deaths of his mother and brother by holding him and them as prisoners when she and his brother were sick during the Revolution. He also hated the British because he carried a scar on his head from a British officer's sword. When he was a boy during the Revolution, he refused to clean the boots of an officer, so the officer cut his face so he would remember not to be insolent to the British. This may be why Jackson had no mercy for the British at New Orleans.